

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14, 15-18, 20-24, 27, 38-39, and 44-48 have been canceled.

Claims 13, 19, 25, 26, 28-37, 40-43 and 49-50 are in this application.

Claims 7 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spillman, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 5,440,300, previously used, in view of Edwards et al. ("Edwards"), U.S. Patent No. 4,684,929, newly discovered.

As previously indicated, claims 7 and 16 have been canceled. Further, the applicants reserve their right to file one or more continuation applications directed to any or all of these canceled claims.

Claims 13, 19, 25, 26, 28-37, 40-43 and 49-50 were allowed.

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter, which was include in the present Office Action. To the extent the Examiner's Statement states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of the Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention

disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

The Examiner has apparently made of record, but not applied, several documents.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that these documents, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

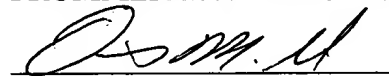
Since all of the claims now in this application have been indicated to be allowed, an early official notice to that effect is solicited.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



Dennis M. Smid
Reg. No. 34,930
(212) 588-0800